

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cosmetic composition comprising:
- (i) from about 0.01 to 20% of a C₁-C₂₅ alpha- or beta-hydroxy carboxylic acid at least partially present as a salt thereof;
 - (ii) from about 0.01 to about 10% of a taurate copolymer; and
 - (iii) a cosmetically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition has a pH of less than 7.
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the C₂-C₂₅ alpha-hydroxy carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, lactic acid, 2-hydroxyoctanoic acid and combinations thereof.
3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the taurate copolymer is at least partially formed from acryloyl dimethyltaurate as a monomer unit.
4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid and salt thereof are present in a molar ratio of 1000:1 to 1:1000.
5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid and salt thereof are present in a molar ratio of 50:1 to 1:1.

6. A composition according to claim 3 wherein the acryloyl dimethyltaurate is copolymerized with a monomer selected from the group consisting of styrene, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate, vinyl pyrrolidone, isoprene, vinyl alcohol, vinyl methylether, chloro-styrene, maleic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide and mixtures thereof.

7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein the taurate copolymer is acryloyl dimethyltaurate/vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.

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8. A cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.01 to 20% of a C₁-C₂₅ alpha- or beta-hydroxy carboxylic acid at least partially present as a salt thereof, in an acid to salt molar ratio of about 50:1 to about 1:1;
- (ii) from about 0.01 to about 10% of an acryloyldimethyl taurate/vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer; and
- (iii) a cosmetically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition has a pH of less than 7.

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